

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291444 TOSEC 310259

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, CIEC

SUBJECT: CIEC MINISTERIAL

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. CANADIANS TELL US THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH PEREZ GUERRERO OVER THE WEEKEND. MACEACHEN WILL MEET WITH PEREZ GUERRERO ON DECEMBER 1 IN NEW YORK.

2. IN MEANTIME, WE HAVE BEGUN TO RECEIVE PRESS INQUIRIES ON QUESTION OF POSTPONEMENT. THESE WERE SPARKED BY REPORT IN LE MONDE OVER THE WEEKEND THAT YOU HAD WRITTEN TO MACEACHEN NOT ONLY REQUESTING THAT DECEMBER MINISTERIAL BE POSTPONED BUT ALSO INDICATING AS USG VIEW THAT CIEC SHOULD BE ABANDONED. WE HAVE PREPARED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AND POSTS:

3. QUESTION: IS THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE
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ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CIEC) SCHEDULED FOR

DECEMBER 15-17 GOING TO BE POSTPONED?

REPLY: WE AND THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN CIEC ARE NOW REVIEWING THE STATE OF WORK FOLLOWING THE NOVEMBER 16-23 SESSIONS OF THE FOUR COMMISSIONS. THE US REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF CIEC, AND WE BELIEVE SOME SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. HOWEVER, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THERE IS A GROWING CONSENSUS AMONG THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES THAT ADDITIONAL WORK IS NEEDED AND THAT THERE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE THAT WORK BEFORE DECEMBER 15, THE DATE SCHEDULED FOR THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. IT IS CLEAR, THEREFORE, THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTICIPANTS TO POSTPONE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING TO ALLOW FURTHER TIME FOR THE CAREFUL PREPARATION NECESSARY TO ASSURE A SATISFACTORY AND PRODUCTIVE OUTCOME.

THE CANADIAN AND VENEZUELAN COCHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE ARE NOW CONSULTING WITH EACH OTHER AND THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON THIS MATTER.

4. QUESTION: HAS SECRETARY KISSINGER WRITTEN TO THE CANADIAN COCHAIRMAN ALLEN MACEACHEN ASKING THAT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE BE POSTPONED?

REPLY: AS PART OF THE CURRENT PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS, WE HAVE GIVEN MR. MACEACHEN, INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY COCHAIRMAN OF CIEC, OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PREPARATION AND ADVISABILITY OF POSTPONEMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

5. QUESTION: IF THE DECEMBER MEETING IS POSTPONED, WHEN MIGHT IT BE RESCHEDULED?

REPLY: A NEW DATE WILL HAVE TO BE FIXED BY THE TWO COCHAIRMAN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS. ROBINSON

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